

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DETERMINING ABSOLUTE ANGULAR VELOCITY

Abstract of the Disclosure

A method and apparatus for determining an absolute angular velocity of a vehicle that rotates during operation about an axis of rotation. The vehicle includes a vehicle body and a gyroscope rotatably mounted on the body for rotation with respect to the body about a gyroscope axis generally aligned with the axis of rotation. The gyroscope is rotated with respect to the vehicle body about the gyroscope axis in a direction opposite to rotation of the vehicle so an absolute angular velocity of the gyroscope about the gyroscope axis tends to remain about zero. A rotational speed of the gyroscope is measured about the gyroscope axis with respect to the vehicle body. The rotational speed of the gyroscope corresponds to the absolute angular velocity of the vehicle about the axis of rotation.